

**Commonwealth of Virginia**

**PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

**October 7, 2003**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

Held at the Sheraton Oceanfront, Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Call to Order:**

At approximately 10:00 a.m., Chair Mary Kay Wakefield called the meeting to order for the Private Security Services Advisory Board (PSSAB)

**Opening Remarks:**

Chair May Kay Wakefield thanked DCJS for a wonderful and grand opening ceremony and what promised to be another wonderful conference. She stated that on a personal note she wanted to thank Lisa Hahn, not only for working so diligently on the conference but, for her leadership in this very dynamic time for private security.

Chair Wakefield thanked everyone present for attending.

Chair Wakefield explained the three rosters that were circulating.

1. Attendance Roster for all to sign
2. General Public Comment Roster for anyone who wished to address the Board at the end of the meeting
3. Public Comment involving Legislative Issues

Chair Wakefield stated that after the legislative committee gives their report and the Board discusses and has a comment period the floor will be opened for a brief public comment period before the vote.

**Attendees:**

Chair Mary Kay Wakefield, Vice Chair P. Robbie Robertson, Jr., Secretary Dennis A. VanDuzee, Deborah Aylward, Kevin Hodges, Sean D. Creamer, Stephen Martin, Christopher J. DiMartino, Lieutenant Paul Midgett, Brent Fortner and R. Robert Shuster.

**Absent:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes for the July 17, 2003, meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Fortner, to approve the minutes. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Recognition of Past Board Member**

Chair Wakefield presented a plaque to Mr. Sparks recognizing his service on the PSSAB from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2003.

Clyde Sparks rotated off the Board in June 2003 after seven years serving on the Board. He served on numerous committees including Fees and Reciprocity, which he Co-Chaired. Whenever we hear the term "Bail Bondsmen" we will always think of Clyde. On behalf of the Board, we want to thank you for your dedication.

Chair Wakefield asked all past Board members in attendance to stand and be recognized.

### **Recognition of Leon Baker**

Chair Wakefield presented a plaque to Leon Baker that recognized his service to the Private Security Industry and the Commonwealth from March 9, 1992 to June 9, 2003. Chair Wakefield said his professionalism, integrity, his wisdom, leadership and his heart have made him invaluable to this Board. He has shared his strength and provided guidance to every Board member. His commitment and involvement on a national level is a primary reason Virginia's Private Security Services is nationally recognized and he serves as a role model.

### **DCJS Report:**

Ms. Hahn, Interim Section Chief discussed the Annual Report which was disseminated to all attendees of the conference. Additionally, Ms. Hahn spoke about the Section's computer advancements. Specifically, she commended Kathi Marshall, John Lorenti, Jennie McLamb and Bob Hood who have worked on Watson Online System and the Osprey Electronic Roster Submittal System. We are far ahead of other regulatory agencies, thanks to their dedication.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Training Committee

Mr. Martin stated that once the Regulations are effective, the Training Committee would be looking at several issues.

Mr. Martin will be posting the Training Committee meeting date and time on the website so anyone interested can attend.

#### Financial Review

Chaired by Mr. Shuster has been put on hold until further notice.

#### Commonwealth Preparedness

Mr. Fortner announced that there would be an informal meeting with Ted Freeman, October 8, 2003 from 8 – 9 a.m. Open forum for members of the industry to talk with Mr. Freeman about their companies and how they can prepare for Homeland Preparedness.

The Virginia Commonwealth Preparedness Committee meeting was postponed due to current initiatives in the industry.

In April there was a meeting with Industry leaders, Former Lieutenant Governor John Hagar and George Foresman regarding the USA article that was very disparaging about security officers in the United States today. The industry workgroup was asked to provide initiatives and suggestions on how the industry could be more involved in Homeland Security.

In July 2003, the industry workgroup met with Colonel Massengill of the Virginia State Police and he approved our initiatives and in August 2003, we met with Richmond Police Chief Andre Parker and he approved the initiatives.

In September, the industry met with the Industry and Commerce Sub-Panel for Commonwealth Preparedness and presented our Private Security Initiatives. The Sub-Panel advanced four of the initiatives:

1. Private Security orientation for Virginia Basic Law Enforcement Training Academies.
2. Homeland Security Networking Initiative. The State Police are in the process of building a Fusion Center. The center would be a network of information that could be disseminated current information, some only to law enforcement, but information will be available to Compliance Agents for Private Security Companies.
3. In the Line of Duty Initiative. The industry recommends that we amend Code Sections 18-2-31, 18-2-51 and 18-2-57 to include a provision for penalty for physically assaulting a uniformed registered security officer in the performance of his official duties making this action a felony.
4. First Responder Recognition. This would give the security officer recognition and would open up possibility for additional grant monies for DCJS to do more training for our industry.

In late October we will be presenting these initiatives to the Full Panel. Hopefully these initiatives will be agreed upon and good things will come from them for the industry.

#### Legislative Committee

Mr. Hodges reported that the committee had met during the past year and have three initiatives that were taken to the Board for legislative action.

1. Citizenship Proposal that “C” with language “no person shall be employed by a licensed Private Security Services business in the Commonwealth as an armed security officer unless he or she is a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident as defined by the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.
2. Make legislative changes to bring Detector Canine Handlers and Dogs into the Private Security Services regulatory control.
3. Freedom of Information amendment to add DCJS to certain exemptions regarding the release of information from the department to the public.

#### **Public Comments on Legislative Issues:**

None

There being no comments or discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hodges and seconded by Lieutenant Midgett to accept the recommendations of the Legislative Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Chair Wakefield thanked Ellie Culbertson of the DCJS staff for the 2002 conference slide show.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chair Wakefield reviewed next meeting dates scheduled for PSSAB:

1. Tuesday, December 2, 2003 in Northern Virginia, exact location to be posted on DCJS website.
2. Tuesday, March 23, 2004, was Lynchburg, may be moved to Roanoke.
3. Tuesday July 13, 2004 in Richmond, hopefully at the State Police Headquarters.
4. 2004 Conference, Virginia Beach.

### **Harold McCann Award:**

Mr. Martin presented the Harold McCann Award to Carl Fisher.

Mr. Fisher said that he was humbled and thankful for the recognition.

### **Public Comment:**

Edward Beach, Old Dominion Security Company, concerned about the minimal amount of training that would be required of the Conservator of the Peace. Will there be legislation for additional training requirements? Ms. Hahn said that the Conservator of the Peace Program would be presented on Wednesday, October 8, 2003 by Ellen Spain.

Shirley Moore, Potomac Investigations, felt that while there are a lot of positive things happening in the industry, there is a gap between the industry and the Board. Ms. Moore told the audience that they need to get involved. Eleven people represent 35,000 people, the Board cannot read minds, and we cannot expect them to know everything. The people in the industry need to get involved. If 1% of the Private Security Industry attended an industry meeting, space would be a problem. Ms. Moore thanked those who attended the Industry Meeting. She stated that she had heard the Board wanted to do away with the Industry Meeting. Ms. Moore told the audience that it is important, an honor and a responsibility to represent the industry. You need to be there when the industry is meeting. Chair Wakefield stated that the Industry Meetings would continue.

Emil Wengel reported on the Industry Meeting the previous evening and there are plans to reconstruct the Industry Meeting to make it more productive. A vote was taken and the Industry wants to continue the Industry Meeting at the annual Conference. The

Industry discussed Public Relations and Communication. The Industry understands that the Board and the Department cannot do anything about the \$255,000 cut from Private Security Services and placed in the General Budget so there will be an Industry Coalition representing all four association that represent 35,000 people to look at remedies for this situation. Someone will meet with Attorney General Kilgore in mid November to see if we can find an easy way out of our funds being channeled to the general budget. Anyone interested in joining the coalition, contact Jim Rowe in Harrisonburg or Mr. Wengel.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the Board, Ms. Aylward made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hodges seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Public Attendees:**

There were 200 attendees for the conference, 67 signed in for the PSSAB meeting.